

**EVENING MEETING  
BOARD WORK SESSION  
OCTOBER 25, 2001  
MINUTES**

The State Board for Community and Junior Colleges (SBCJC) met for dinner at 6:00 p.m. in The Edison Walthall Hotel, 225 East Capitol Street, Jackson, Mississippi, on October 25, 2001. Following dinner, board members and staff moved to Ballroom I on the 2nd floor in the Hotel.

Mr. George Walker, SBCJC Chair, officially called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. The following members were present: Brenda Collins, Sara Fox, Donald Green, Joanna Heidel, Henry "Bubba" Hudspeth and George Walker. Veldore Heidelberg, David Marsh, Jimmy Murphy and Lawrence Warren were absent. State Board for Community and Junior Colleges (SBCJC) staff present included: Becky Cade, Larry Day, Deborah Gilbert, Olon E. Ray, Wayne Stonecypher, Evelyn Webb and Frankie Walton-White.

Mr. Walker called on Ms. Deborah Gilbert to discuss the first agenda item, Audit Reports. (Refer to Attachment A.) Ms. Gilbert explained that all of the colleges, with one exception, received an unqualified opinion on their fiscal year 2000 audits. The one exception is Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College (MGCCC), which was issued a disclaimer of opinion from the State Department of Audit. Ms. Gilbert and Dr. Ray both have talked with MGCCC personnel since the opinion was rendered. According to MGCCC personnel the material weaknesses found during the audit were the result of putting in a new administrative software system. Dr. Ray assured members that Ms. Gilbert nor he thinks MGCCC has a problem, and they have no concerns about their financial solvency.

Next Mr. Walker called on Ms. Sara Fox, finance board liaison, to lead the discussion of the finance agenda items as follows:

- 1) The October 31, 2001, Education Enhancement Fund and Budget Contingency Fund disbursements of \$833,333 from Fund 3295, \$1,707,874 from Fund 4080 and \$41,527 from Fund 4110 for a total of \$2,582,734;
- 2) A review of the Quarterly Capital Improvement Report developed by Dr. Larry Day;
- 3) A request from Coahoma Community College for approval to begin a Capital Improvement Project renovating residence halls at Coahoma utilizing SB3158 funds;
- 4) A review of financial statements for Funds 2291 and 3291, as of September 30, 2001; and
- 5) Under other business, a request to approve \$31,365 for certified on-line instructor training from the Walden Institute for 45 community college faculty that are currently teaching classes online. The training will be offered via the Internet.

Mr. Walker then called on Ms. Joanna Heidel, program board liaison, to lead the discussion of any program agenda items. Ms. Heidel stated that there were no program agenda items and asked Dr. Wayne Stonecypher if he had anything he wanted to share. Dr. Stonecypher shared with the board that Mr. Bill Blassingame, long time employee of the Mississippi Department of Education, Vocational-Technical Division, is very ill. He had an accident and has since had a couple of strokes that have

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left him in bad physical condition and in need of rehabilitation. Dr. Stonecypher reminded members that Mr. Blassingame had represented the MDE in past Board and Workforce Council meetings and his absence from the MDE will be sorely missed.

Upon conclusion of the program report, Mr. Walker asked Dr. Ray to proceed with general comments, the next agenda item. Dr. Ray stated that he had no specific comments, but wanted to take this time to entertain and address any comments or questions members might have. Issues discussed included the Supreme Court hearing that was held on October 8, 2001, the possibility of 15 to 20% funding cuts for fiscal year 2003, Tulane's request to open a site on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and continued efforts to coordinate with the other education board chairs and Chief Executive Officers.

Mr. Hudspeth commended both Mr. Walker and Dr. Ray for the outstanding job they did at the Legislative Budget Office hearing in September. Mr. Hudspeth added that Ms. Deborah Gilbert did an excellent job of fielding questions from legislators during the hearing.

Finally, due to the grave outlook on revenue and probable cuts to workforce education monies, Mr. Walker shared with members that he and Mr. Joe Jones plan to begin a pilgrimage throughout the state visiting with newspapers and television personnel. These visits will begin in January 2002.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.